

## OPINION 1686

***Natrix gemonensis* Laurenti, 1768 (currently *Coluber gemonensis*), *Coluber viridiflavus* Lacépède, 1789 and *Coluber helveticus* Lacépède, 1789 (currently *Natrix natrix helvetica*) (Reptilia, Serpentes): specific names conserved**

### Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers:

(a) all previous fixations of type specimens for the nominal species *Natrix gemonensis* Laurenti, 1768 are hereby set aside and specimen no. 1357.70 in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva, for which the data are given in BZN 48: 51, para. 4, is designated as the neotype;

(b) the following specific names are hereby ruled to be available despite having been published in a rejected work:

(i) *helveticus* Lacépède, 1789, as published in the binomen *Coluber helveticus*;

(ii) *viridiflavus* Lacépède, 1789, as published in the binomen *Coluber viridi-flavus*.

(2) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *gemonensis* Laurenti, 1768, as published in the binomen *Natrix gemonensis*, and as defined by the neotype designated in (1)(a) above;

(b) *helveticus* Lacépède, 1789, as published in the binomen *Coluber helveticus* and as conserved in (1)(b)(i) above;

(c) *viridiflavus* Lacépède, 1789, as published in the binomen *Coluber viridi-flavus* and as conserved in (1)(b)(ii) above.

### History of Case 2675

An application for the conservation of the specific names of *Natrix gemonensis* Laurenti, 1768, *Coluber viridiflavus* Lacépède, 1789 and *Coluber helveticus* Lacépède, 1789 was received from Dr Beat Schätti (*Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland*), Mr Andrew F. Stimson (*The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) and Dr Klaus Henle (*Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany*) on 1 August 1988. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 48: 50–52 (March 1991). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. No comments were received.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1991 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 48: 51–52. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1992 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 27: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Minelli, Nielsen, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — none.

No votes were received from Martins de Souza and Nye.

**Original references**

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*gemonensis*, *Natrix*, Laurenti, 1768, *Specimen medicum, exhibens synopsin reptilium emendatum...*, p. 76.

*helveticus*, *Coluber*, Lacépède, 1789, *Histoire naturelle des quadrupèdes ovipares et des serpents*, vol. 2 (*Histoire naturelle des serpents*), p. 100.

*viridiflavus*, *Coluber*, Lacépède, 1789, *Histoire naturelle des quadrupèdes ovipares et des serpents*, vol. 2 (*Histoire naturelle des serpents*), p. 86.